

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/583,653
Reply to Final Office Action of January 26, 2008

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph and subject heading prior to the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 36 of the application:

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of a connection module including a base plate, a connecting module for electrical cores, and a connecting module for optical waveguides in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram showing an example connection module wherein the connecting module for optical waveguides includes a top part and a bottom part in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure;

FIG. 3 is a schematic block diagram showing a top, plan view of an example base including fitting agents in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure;

FIG. 4 is a schematic block diagram showing an example connection module in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 36 of the application with the following amended paragraph:

Connection module 1 entails a base plate 2 and also a connecting module 3 for electrical cores and a connecting module 4 for optical waveguides 5. The two connecting modules 3, 4 are suitably connected detachably or non-detachably with the base plate 2 via fitting agents 8 (see FIG. 3). The connection can, for example, be a screw, engagement or glued connection. In the portrayed connecting module, four optical waveguides 5 are inserted into unrecognisable transient bores (not shown) from the one side and connected with four other optical waveguides inserted into the transient bores from the other side of connecting module 4, the opposite optical waveguides in connecting module 4 being brought into contact. In the example portrayed, only two connecting modules 3, 4 are shown on the base plate 2. However, other embodiments are quite easily possible in which more connecting modules 3, 4 are arranged on the base plate.

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Depending on requirements, a mixed set-up can also be done and the base plate equipped according to the box-of-bricks principle. Equipping and/or wiring of the connecting modules 3, 4 can be done quickly, directly at the place of installation, without large amounts of tools being necessary.

Please add the following new paragraphs to the application following the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7.

In a further preferential embodiment, the base plate contains connecting elements 12 making a carrier system, for example with clips to engage on round bars (see FIG. 3).

The connecting module 4 can have been filled with the immersion fluid in the area of the joints. In one embodiment, a reservoir 7 with an immersion fluid has been arranged in the top part 4b of the connecting module (see FIG. 4).

In one embodiment, the contacts of the connecting block 3 for electrical cores are preferably insulation displacement contacts 10 (see FIG. 4).